



Current Nationwide
Threat Level is

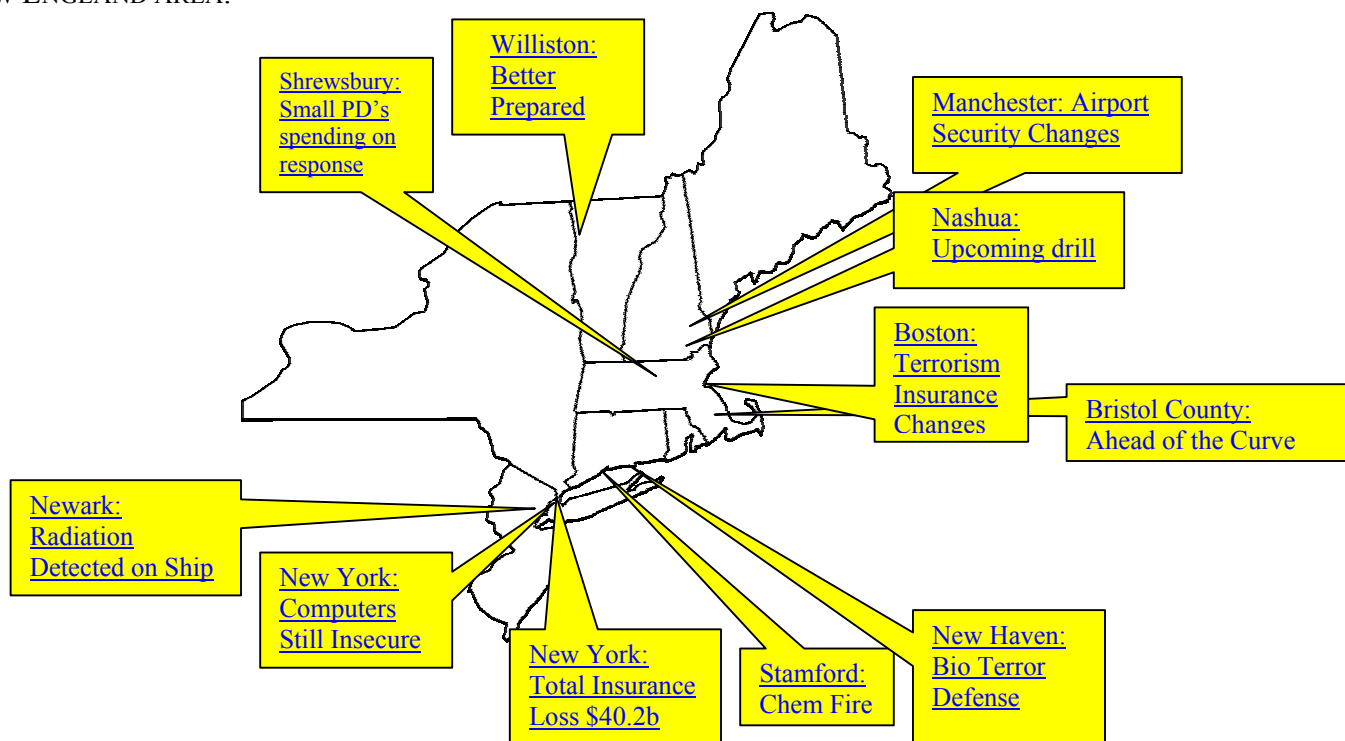
HIGH

[For info click here](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)
www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

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New England Regional Threat Analysis Cell Threat Reporting Review 16 September 2002

PROVIDING SITUATION AWARENESS AND ALL-SOURCE ANALYSIS OF EVENTS RELATED TO THE DEFENSE OF LIFE AND PROPERTY AGAINST FOREIGN TERRORIST ACTS IN MASSACHUSETTS AND THE NEW ENGLAND AREA.



Banking and Finance Sector (2)

5 Sept 2002: New York – The Insurance Information Institute estimates the total insurance loss from the 11 Sept 2001 terrorist attacks to be about \$40.2 billion. The bulk of that amount is related to business interruption, followed closely by liability claims. One percent of the total is for the loss of four commercial aircraft. [[map](#)]

The New England Regional Threat Analysis Cell Threat Reporting Review is a summary and assessment of open-source and Law Enforcement Sensitive (LES) information concerning potential Foreign Terrorist Threat issues.

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Source: <http://www.iii.org/media/updates/press.635680/>

6 Sept 2002: Boston – A study earlier this year found that **80 percent of insurance companies have indicated they have dropped, or will drop, terrorism insurance from commercial policies.** However, a handful of companies, including one in Boston and one in Stamford, CT will write stand-alone policies, but with limits of \$75 million to \$500 million. The gap between coverage and value has affected many large-scale commercial deals, and the insufficient availability of terrorism insurance reportedly forced the cancellation of \$7 billion in commercial real estate loans. [[map](#)]

Source: <http://boston.bizjournals.com/boston/stories/2002/09/09/focus3.html>

Chemical Sector (2)

9 Sept 2002: Stamford CT – **More than 100 workers were evacuated from a Tyco plant in Stamford CT Monday as printed circuit boards being dipped in alcohol caught fire.** A small amount of chemicals went into a nearby brook, and three workers were treated at a local hospital. [[map](#)]

Source: http://wbz4.com/ctnews/AP/APTV/State/CT/n/CT-BRF--TycoFire-mn/news_html

9 Sept 2002: New Haven, CT – The director of Yale-New Haven Health Systems says that **although the US is better prepared to handle a biological attack, there is an intermittent understanding that not consistent across the health community.** The \$1.1 billion in nationwide grants has helped larger communities develop a comprehensive bio-terrorism response plan, but many first responders and point people such as emergency room nurses may not immediately recognize smallpox symptoms. [[map](#)]

Source:

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=5301520&BRD=1281&PAG=461&dept_id=7573&rft=6

Cyber Threats (3)

9 Sept 2002: New York – The director of the Information Technology Association of America says despite the increase in fear over a coordinated cyber attack **since Sept 11, 2002, only a few companies have increased security on their computers and networks.** Harris Miller feels companies would have reacted to the perceived increase in the threat of cyber terror in a more proactive manner. Only one in ten companies has said business disaster planning has become a top priority in the last year. [[map](#)]

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/09/09/technology/09SECU.html>

30 August 2002: Gartner – A recent Gartner Research Note points out that, although it's likely that terrorists are using the Internet for communications and research, **there has yet to be a single case of cyber terrorism,** and companies should worry more about plugging known gaps than worry about the prospect of cyber terrorism. *Analyst's comment: The likelihood that a cyber*

terrorist would exploit vulnerabilities that are unknown to the information security community is probably very low. Thus, "plugging known gaps" is not only prudent from a counter intrusion and theft perspective, it would be an effective deterrent to cyber terrorism. [map]

Source: Gartner Research COM-17-9920

*5 Sept 2002: Redmond WA –Microsoft Corp. today released a patch that plugs a **security hole in its cryptography software that allows hackers to use bogus digital certificates to hijack secure communications and forge digital signatures.** Analyst's comment: The vulnerability would allow a man-in-the-middle attack to spoof trusted certificates without detection, possibly resulting in a financial loss to users. Exploit code has been published on the Internet. [map]*

Source:

<http://www.computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/holes/story/0,10801,73996,00.html>

Emergency & Law Enforcement Sector(5)

*10 Sept 2002: Shrewsbury MA – **Small town police departments are diverting manpower and money into communication and coordination with adjacent communities, training and emergency planning,** and the results have made suburban towns safer. While smaller towns don't face the heightened threat level of the larger cities, federal and state public safety agencies rely on local first responders as the front line of defense against terrorist attacks, and a fearful public wants them to have the latest and best training. Town chiefs are trying to determine if the risk justifies the expense. [map]*

Source:

http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/251/west/Local_police_forces_increase_readiness_to_ease_public_fears+.shtml

*10 Sept 2002: Williston VT – Vermont emergency services personnel are better trained and better equipped than ever before. **Federal grants to Vermont's Homeland Security Unit have helped train first responders statewide to handle terrorism.** The US Department of Justice granted Vermont \$1.6 million for the purchase of equipment to respond to terrorist-related incidents. The state expects another \$2.7 million, and possibly \$15 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. [map]*

Source: http://wbz4.com/vtnews/AP/APTV/State/VT/n/VT--HomelandSecurity-en/news_html

*9 Sept 2002: Washington DC – **Current weapons of mass destruction (WMD) attack response training programs are not sufficient, and do not take advantage of new training technology,** according to a report from the Federation of American Scientists. The report finds a pressing need for up-to-date training and continuous refresher courses for first responders, many of whom feel they are unprepared to handle a WMD incident. Recommendations include new information and training technologies and coordinated interagency plans. [map]*

Sources: http://www.reuters.com/news_article.jhtml?type=sciencenews&StoryID=1428824,
http://www.fas.org/terrorism/wmd/docs/wmd_resp.pdf

12 Sept 2002: Newsfactor - According to Datacomm Research president Ira Brodsky, **today's radiation detectors were not designed for law enforcement officials and customs inspectors to use in the field**. Even though nuclear radiation is easily detected, the challenge is to make detection feasible and reliable on a large scale. Most of the detection equipment in place today was designed for use by technicians and physicists in a controlled environment. [map]
Source: <http://www.newsfactor.com/perl/story/19363.html>

10 Sept 2002: Nashua NH – **An October mass-casualty terrorism drill involving hundreds of first responders will simulate a terrorist bombing at a chemical plant**. An added twist to the script includes a simulated school field trip to the plant at the time of the attack, and incorporates a simultaneous armed terrorist attack at a factory in Tyngsboro MA. The drill has been two years in planning, and will test multi-jurisdictional response capabilities. [map]
Source: <http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/Main.asp?SectionID=25&SubSectionID=354&ArticleID=63950>

Food Sector (3)

10 Sept 2002: Washington DC – The US Department of Agriculture says Kraft Foods Co. is voluntarily **recalling approximately 12,600 pounds of turkey lunch kits** because of misbranding. The kits are 3.8-ounce & 6.75 fluid ounce boxes of “Oscar Mayer Lunchables, Cracker Stackers, Lean Turkey Breast & White Turkey Cured.” The retail package is **labeled as turkey but contains ham**. It was distributed to retail stores in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, **Massachusetts**, Maryland, **Maine**, North Carolina, **New Hampshire**, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, **Rhode Island**, Virginia and Wisconsin. *Analyst's comment: While there is no apparent link to terrorist activity, this information is provided because some of the mislabeled product was distributed to New England markets.* [map]
Source: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/recalls/prelease/pr080-2002.htm>

13 Sept 2002: Washington DC – Moyer Packing Company, a Souderton, PA establishment, is voluntarily recalling approximately 203,600 pounds of fresh ground beef products that may be **contaminated with E. coli O157:H7**, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced today. The ground beef products being recalled are 10-lb. chubs packed in 60-lb. cases. The ground beef products were produced on Aug. 31. The products were distributed to a manufacturer in Pennsylvania and retail distributors in **Connecticut**, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, **Massachusetts**, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, **Rhode Island**, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. The products involved in the recall may have been reground and repackaged in retail stores. [map]
Source: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/recalls/prelease/pr082-2002.htm>

10 Sept 2002: Washington DC – **The United States remains highly vulnerable to strikes to the food supply**, even though the federal government has spent nearly \$1 billion to enhance health and human services. Although the Food and Drug Administration has doubled its number of

food inspectors to 1,500, this number is still inadequate. According to a report yet to be published, the National Research Council says the government has not developed “in-depth plans for defense against the intentional introduction of biological agents directed at agriculture.”

Analyst's comment: There have been no public announcements from the government describing specific credible information regarding foreign terrorist use of the food supply as a means of attack on the US. [map]

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/70136.htm>

Gas and Oil Sector (0)

NSTR

Government Operations Sector (1)

9 Sept 2002: Bristol County, MA – Three years ago, Bristol County Sheriff Thomas Hodgson took advantage of an opportunity to take a four-day course on weapons of mass destruction.

That course put Bristol County ahead of the curve when it came time to update security and emergency preparedness plans after the Sept 11 2001 attacks. One outcome is the development of a computer disk containing all necessary state agency information and services available during a crisis. Other advances include detailed maps of public schools and buildings, and chem gear obtained via a federal grant. [map]

Source:

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=5301315&BRD=1710&PAG=461&dept_id=99784&rft=6

Information Technology Sector (1)

11 Sept 2002: Washington DC – The upcoming national plan to better secure cyberspace, to be announced 18 Sept, is undergoing some last-minute slicing in hopes the changes will help voluntary adoption by industry. **High-tech firms and other companies have pressed the government to drop its recommendation that ISPs bundle firewall and other security-related technology with their software,** and instead make it easier for consumers to access these tools themselves. The government is also apparently dropping the recommendation to have a privacy czar oversee how companies handle consumer personal information. *Analyst's comment: Leaving the choice of which security tool to install to the end-user will foster a market-driven environment for security software, which has been advocated by security professionals for years. A drawback is that unaware consumers may operate computers with no security precautions in place until after a successful attack causing a loss has been launched against them. [map]*

Source: <http://news.tbo.com/news/MGAWIXWEY5D.html>

Power Sector (1)

10 Sept 2002: Washington DC- In response to the federal government escalating the color-coded threat level to orange, **the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) advised operators of the nation's 103 nuclear power plants to boost security.** The security measures were based on a prearranged plan, and involved close coordination with local and state authorities. The NRC has also increased security at its Rockville MD offices and its four regional offices in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Illinois, and Texas. *Analyst's comment: The New England region is host to a number of commercial nuclear reactors and several research reactors.* [map]

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/newsroom/nr_article.cfm?id=3279663

Telecommunications Sector (0)

NSTR

Transportation Sector (4)

11 Sept 2002: Newark NJ – **The Liberian-registered M/V Palermo Senator container ship had been directed to stay in a security zone six miles off shore after traces of radioactivity were found in its cargo.** A Coast Guard inspection team also heard suspicious sounds in several of the ship's cargo holds, but could not locate the source. The ship remained off shore until the condition of its cargo was ascertained and safely offloaded. After extensive testing and analysis, it was determined that a cargo of clay tiles was emitting the low level of detected radiation and the U.S. Coast Guard canceled the security zone established around the Palermo Senator.. [map]

Sources: <http://ap.tbo.com/ap/breaking/MGAA6RTBZ5D.html>
http://www.local6.com/sh/news/stories/nat-news-166604820020913-070908.html?treet=orlpn&tml=orlpn_12pm&ts=T&tmi=orlpn_12pm_1515_10550109132002
http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/020913/dcf041_1.html

10 Sept 2002: Manchester NH – **Manchester Airport has undergone some visible changes during the past year and some not so visible.** Barriers block parking spaces located near the main airport terminal, visitors are not permitted to the gate area, and the baggage screeners now wear federal uniforms. Official vehicles that travel on runways may be searched, employees undergo criminal history checks, and unattended vehicles receive police scrutiny. The airport is planning on installing luggage scanning devices. The tab for the increase in security is \$1.5 million a year. [map]

Source: http://www.concordmonitor.com/stories/news/state2002/nh_sept11_airport_07y03y38_2002.shtml

11 Sept 2002: Aviation Daily – **US flight operations returned faster than traffic and passenger volume since Sept 11, 2001.** Those airports that recovered the most were all hubs

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and none were in coastal states. Flight operations by mainline jets with more than 60 seats were within 2% of year-earlier levels at three airports. Among those that came back slowest were **Boston**, Newark, Washington Dulles, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, all airports where last year's hijacked aircraft originated or were headed. [map]

Source:

http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_comm.jsp?view=story&id=news/cfrag0911b.xml

4 Sept 2002: Boston – At a meeting of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance, **the Director of the Transportation Security Agency had a simple message for truckers: “Lock your trailers.”** According to officers who inspect trucks, up to 70% of trailers are not locked. Keeping trailers locked would not only deter potential terrorist acts, but would help reduce the number of thefts and hijackings. [map]

Source: <http://www.ttnews.com/members/topNews/0009305.html>

Water Sector (1)

10 Sept 2002: Washington DC – Although there is little specific information, **the FBI recently advised water and wastewater facilities to be on guard for possible terrorist activities.** Since 11 Sept 2001, water and wastewater facilities have been deemed potential targets, and officials across the US have been on alert. [map]

Source: http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4&N_ID=34267

XYZ (1)

10 Sept 2002: Washington DC – The consensus among some of the country's top terrorism thinkers is that **the next attack will not be as an ambitious undertaking as the last.** They say there will be another attack, and probably sooner than later. In an in-your-face move, the terrorists will likely strike a soft target, such as a commuter bus near a building holding symbolic importance. [map]

Source:

<http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/Main.asp?SectionID=25&SubSectionID=354&ArticleID=63964>

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The New England Regional Threat Analysis Cell (NERTAC) Threat Reporting Review (TRR) is a USAF Electronic Systems Center pilot program that provides an all-source analysis of events related to the defense of life and property against foreign terrorist acts in Massachusetts and the New England area. The NETRTAC TRR pilot program is designed to evaluate the process and products for regional DoD analytic support to state and local civilian authorities.

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NERTAC TRR feedback is highly encouraged. For comments or additional information relative to the TRR, please contact CDR Robert Hill, United States Navy, CinC Interoperability Program Office, Hanscom AFB, MA (781) 377-6553

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